for selection. To improve the situation, constant efforts are made to make Army an attractive career. Sustained image projection campaign through print and electronic media is also launched.

Vacancies in MoD

3381. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog vacancies as on the 31st March, 2004 in his Ministry and its various Departments;

(b) whether special drive was carried out to fill in the above backlog vacancies;

(c) if so, number of vacancies filled in during the last two years, department-wise; and

(d) what are the backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A Special Recruitment Drive was conducted by the Ministry of Defence to fill up the backlog of vacancies as on 1st July, 2004 pertaining to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The number of such vacancies worked out as on 1st July, 2004 in the Ministry of Defence, including all its subordinate offices, was 6829.

As a result of the Special Recruitment Drive, 3321 vacancies were filled up by April, 2006. Department-wise details are as follows:—

Department	Number of vacancies filled in during the last two years
Department of Defence	2005
Department of Defence Production	1133
Defence Research & Development Organisation	183

The number of remaining backlog vacancies is 3508. Government takes steps from time to time to clear such backlog.